

20th August 1925]

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I am perfectly willing to take it from the hon. Member there were marks of violence on the drowned boy ; presumably what has happened is something more than the mere act of drowning oneself. From that point of view and having regard to the allegations that have been made, further inquiries will be made.”

Punitive police at Gooty.

* 177 Q.—MR. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the faction between two persons Kona Timma Reddi of Gooty and K. Chinnarappa Reddi of Peddavadagu is one which extends to Gooty and 26 other villages in Anantapur district ;

(b) whether the faction exists among the Reddi community alone ;

(c) if so, the necessity for asking other communities to bear the cost of the special police ;

(d) how many police stations there are in the faction-affected area ; and

(e) whether the Government considered the question of opening up one or two new police stations to relieve the situation ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 396, Judicial, dated 15th July 1925, which has been placed on Editors' Table.

(d) Till 31st May 1925 the villages in which partisans of the two factions reside included portions of the jurisdictions of three police stations, but there was a police station in only one of those villages.

(e) Yes. A new police station was opened at Teliki on 1st June 1925.

MR. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ With regard to clause (e), Sir, may I know whether the new police station referred to in the answer is a station for the special police ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Yes.”

MR. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ With regard to clause (d), may I know the name of the village in which the police station is situated ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I cannot say off-hand, Sir.”

The hon. the RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“ May I ask whether the levy of the punitive tax was confined to the Reddi community and not to the other communities ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ It is not confined to any community ; it extends to everybody who has taken an active part in the factions.”

MR. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ It refers only to those people in the village who have taken part in the faction. Have the Government made any efforts to find out these people ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Under section 15 of the Act of 1861, the duty is, in the first place, cast on the District Magistrate who will send to Government lists of those who have taken prominent part in the faction. The Government will then apply its mind to the question and pass orders.”

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Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ Have these people no remedy against the proposals of the District Magistrate ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ No legal remedies ; but representations to the Executive can of course be made.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“ Do I understand that the District Magistrate has discretion to levy this tax on any people he chooses ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Subject to revision by the Government, yes.”

* Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—“ Having regard to the fact that these offences are non-bailable offences, why should not the Criminal Tribes Act be put in force there ? ” (Laughter.)

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I am afraid the inhabitants of that locality will not certainly feel any elation at that suggestion. It is not the case that they are criminal tribes in the sense that they are addicted to crimes as their normal avocation and preoccupation. It does happen from time to time that during factions even otherwise peaceably disposed people lash themselves into fury and commit excesses.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ May I know whether the policy of the Government is to station such punitive police wherever there are factions ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Not at all. The Government policy however is to station police under section 15 of the Act, 1861, where no other possibility is seen. For instance, if the leaders in a locality concerned will say that they are small things, that the people concerned make these factions, and they are not the result of any undetected crimes, then there will be no necessity for these measures.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“ May I ask whether imposition of punitive police is not an extraordinary measure ? If a locality is continuously troublesome, it is only a case for strengthening the ordinary police ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ It is exactly on account of remarks such as these lucidly explained by the Raja of Ramnad that the Government in their order have said that they will study the situation for the next few months and make up their minds as to what is to be done. If the emergency police had been necessary then additional police will be quartered on the locality at the expense of the State. It is hoped however that the ordinary tax-payer should not be compelled to pay for the vagaries of particular individuals.”

Alleged ill-treatment of Adi-Dravida labourers in the tanneries in Ambur.

* 178 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the tanneries owned by private persons in and around Ambur, North Arcot district, the Adi-Dravidas who work there as labourers are subjected to great hardships in the matter of residential quarters, medical relief and education of their children ;